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Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules regarding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that contributors to this Journal write to its office requesting a copy of this leaflet.

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EDITORIALS†

MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS: MILITARY; CIVILIAN; RED CROSS

United States Has the Lowest Morbidity and Mortality Rates.—Morbidity and mortality rates in the United States for years have been lower than those of any European or other nation. Therefore it may be taken, as a sound conclusion, to affirm that the "preparedness" of physicians in the United States is of a high standard, because otherwise such statistics would not obtain, since climatic, industrial, and various conditions here are not greatly superior to those of other lands.

The above comment relates to what has been accomplished in days of peace by the American medical profession in the preventive and healing activities of medicine. The record may be taken as a token of what still may be expected from physicians in times of emergency or war—which ever term may be the more appropriate under existing conditions.

* * *

Effect of Selective Service Act on Private Medical Practice.—When Congress passed the Selective Service Act to bring into somewhat sudden being an army of 1,400,000 men, as provided in the Selective Service Act, it was certain that there would follow important results to civilian medical practice. For at once, step by step, as the induction of men as soldiers took place, there was also necessitated the induction of medical officers and personnel to look after the physical and mental well-being of those soldiers.

A few years ago, the massiveness of the present military set-up of the United States was not a subject of contemplation by the great majority of citizens, physicians included. However, an emergency has arisen that has been as great a surprise to physicians as to others.

For many medical men the new conditions meant a radical rearrangement of preëxisting plans of professional life and activities. Yet, in spite of this, the medical profession has not been found wanting. Through their national, state and county organizations, and also as individuals, doctors of medicine have met the call that has come to them. Those who have been inducted into service are now busily engaged in acquainting themselves with their new duties, even though existing military

†Editorials on subjects of scientific and editorial interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comment column which follows.